

The Institution of Engineers, Australia; Sydney Division
Engineering Heritage Committee

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE: Malcolm Nicklin

TAPE NUMBERS:

IEA SYD RR: 129 - 130

INTERVIEWER: Richard Raxworthy

INTERVIEW DATE: 25.8.97

NUMBER OF TAPES: 2

RESTRICTION ON USE: None

LOG PREPARATION: Log prepared using a NEC RM 2670E tape recorder.

INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

Tape Counter	Subject	Names & Keywords
Tape: IEA SYD RR 129, Side A. Date: 25/8/97		
0	Leader and identification	
30	Born 1930	Turramurra NSW
		North Sydney Boys High
70	Uni of Sydney BSc & BE Hons. 1952	Uni of Sydney Bsc BE, Prof W. A. Miller Prof Sutherland, Prof Roderick
145	Science	Prof Cheong
155	Thesis - on a Bridge	
170	DMR - got a job but never started	
200	Macdonald Wagner & Priddle	Macdonald Wagner & Priddle
225	Survey for Bulk Sugar Terminal Mackay	Mackay Bulk Sugar terminal Lucinda Bulk Sugar Terminal Bulk Grain Terminals NSW 1954-55
265	Sugar Terminal Surveys Townsville, Cairns and Meridian Harbour, Innisfail	Sugar Terminal Surveys Townsville, Cairns, Meridian Harbour, Innisfail
275	Argentina, Mauritius Bulk Sugar	Argentina, Mauritius Bulk Sugar
325	Went to Scout Jamboree, London	
330	Seconded to W. S. Atkins & Partners, London	W. S. Atkins & Partners
335	Nuclear Power Stations	Nuclear Power Stations
340	Married in London	
370	Returned to Macdonald Wagner & Priddle	Macdonald Wagner & Priddle
390	Sydney Opera House - Ove Arup	Sydney Opera House, Ove Arup
	Parkes Radio Telescope - Freeman Fox & Partners	Parkes Radio Telescope Freeman Fox & Partners
400	Opera House survey - demolition of tram depot	Opera House survey - demolition of tram depot
410	Parkes and other Radio telescopes	
420	Bulk sugar terminals - Townsville fire	

Tape Counter	Subject	Names & Keywords
Tape: IEA SYD RR 129, Side B		
30	Opera House	Opera House
	- the Red Book design	Joern Utzon
80	Ove Arup partnership with Macdonald Wagner & Priddle	Ove Arup & Macdonald Wagner & Priddle
110	Nicklin represented the Stage 1 Partnership	
135	Assumptions for foundation loads - Schedule Rate involved with the podium - Contractor	Civil & Civic
175	Contract 1½ original estimated price	Opera House cost
180	Utzon Red Book cost estimate 3 million pounds	
200	Hyperbolic Paraboloid cost	Hyperbolic Paraboloid cost
220	Ove Arup spherical section shell cost	spherical section shell cost
230	Opera House Executive Committee	Opera House Executive Committee
260	Premier Cahill's Office to cost project for the Act	Premier Cahill's Opera House cost
280	Opera House Enabling Act \$9.8 mil	Opera House Enabling Act \$9.8 mil
300	Opera House Stage 11 - Hornibrook - cost plus 75, 000 pounds fee	Opera House Stage 11 - Hornibrook
330	Townsville Sugar Terminal Fire Contract	Manuel Hornibrook
340	Parkes Radio Telescope - talking to Sir Ralph Freeman at the same time as Opera House	Sir Ralph Freeman
350	Parkes Radio Telescope - did survey – supervised layout design and construction by Concrete Constructions	Design Sir Gilbert Roberts
400	Had been interviewed by Sir Oleg Kerenski for work on Parkes Telescope while in England and turned it down for lack of suitable money	Sir Oleg Kerenski
410	Captains Flat a Mills Cross Radio Telescope – did survey project by sun and stars	Prof. Bernard Mills
430	Narrabri Optical Telescope survey	

Tape: IEA SYD RR 130, Side A		
30	Anglo-Australian Telescope Siding Springs survey and supervision	Siding Springs Telescope
65	Resident Engineer Siding Springs	Mike Jeffrey
95	Anglo Science Minister attended on Telescope Committee.	Margaret Thatcher
110	Had to go to England for a meeting at Christmas	Chair - Astronomer Royal Sir Fred Hoyle on Committee
145	Had Majored in Science and Civil Engineering	
155	Study tour to USA on Oil and Gas Pipelines	
165	Oil Tanker Berths at BP Berrys Bay, Townsville & Westernport	Oil Tanker Berths and Pipelines
175	Opened Melbourne Office for Westernport	
185	Became Managing Director - went into iron ore industry terminals	

Tape Counter	Subject	Names & Keywords
200	Grain Terminals - Macdonald pioneered use of sliding forms with Swedes in 1920s and 1930s. Horizontal Storage	Grain Terminals
250	Managing Director in 1970 when he did the Feasibility Study for Argentina	Argentina
270	East Java sugar mill rehabilitation - World Bank Funds missing	Indonesia
310	Kenya Office for Wheat Terminal at Mombassa	Kenya - Mombassa
320	Stepped down as Managing Director before retired went to Kenya for Feasibility Study Oil V Coal. Did Energy Audit - Energy Conservation Plan only used by Cement Industry. Tea Industry study.	
360	Argentina study for Bahia Blanca	Argentina - Bahia Blanca
370	Took early retirement - Consultant for conversion of Mosman Spastic Centre into Queenwood School	Consultant Queenwood School
385	Snowy Mtns Eng Corp Board - Corp. sold to Staff	Snowy Mtns Eng Corp Board
420	Douglas & Partners Consultant	

Tape: IEA SYD RR 130, Side B		
30	Sugar Terminal History for farmers	Qld Sugar Corp History
	Bulk Sugar Terminals History - CSR	Bulk Sugar Terminals History
70	Revaluation and Insurance of Terminals	
80	Fortieth Anniversary of Bulk Sugar Terminals	
100	Expert Witness in Litigation	
110	Mergers - now 1200 at Consulting Engineer Firm	Macdonald Wagner Priddle mergers
125	Managing Director - ran as a partnership – 600. Work checked by colleagues - changes	
160	Retired - wonderful to get back to one project	
175	Management methods changed	
190	Association of Consulting Engineers - Bicentennial Awards - Sydney Football Stadium - client reduced cost, causing reduced rain cover for patrons	Doug Price
235	Newspaper rang up in the middle of the night about origin of Opera House tiles	Opera House tiles
265	Opera House concept of side by side Halls was Utzon's; but then the argument came in for the large hall to be a Concert Hall which was what the ABC wanted, and they won.	Opera House
300	Convenor of Association of Consulting Engineers. Engineering Excellence Awards took over from John Ferris	John Ferris
320	Institution of Engineers Australia Bicentennial Awards	Institution of Engineers Australia Bicentennial Awards
350	Award for Structure of "Puppy"	Award for Structure of "Puppy"
375	Awards - effects of - improved Aust Engineering	Effect of Awards
385	Engineering ideas now exported - dry tailings dam	
400	Civil Contractors NSW Earth Awards	NSW Earth Awards
430	End	